



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring Brings Changes to Downtown
With the state office complex opening, improvements to be made

FAIRMONT, WV- April 23, 2015- Spring is in full swing and so is the Fairmont Parking Authority which means several new improvements to Fairmont's downtown parking are in the works. The State of West Virginia has leased spaces in the Adams Street parking garage for the employees to park once the State Office Complex opens. With a combination of those employees and the monthly parkers that currently hold a parking pass from the City, the garage will almost be at capacity. Parking spaces will still be available for hourly and daily parking, but there will not be a large number available.

A new feature to the garage will be the presence of the Marion County Police Reserves. The City of Fairmont has contracted with the Police Reserves to serve as attendants in the parking garage to assist during peak demand hours. "Since the parking garage will be nearing capacity, we decided that a attendant was necessary for assisting those that are parking to help them with their passes and direct them to the proper area to park and also help provide a security presence," said Parking Authority Chairman Chuck Warner.

Plans are also being made to improve the gravel lot in front of the parking garage to assist with the demand for hourly parking, to ultimately add additional parking to the downtown area by mid-summer. "We are not only looking to provide additional parking, but we also want to make the area more attractive with landscaping and green space," said City Manager Jay Rogers.

Parking meters will soon be installed in the Post Office parking lot, but there will also be non-metered spaces designated only for those doing business in the Post Office. The meters are being added to allow for turnover, as patrons for several businesses will utilize the lot.

Currently there are 357 on-street spaces and 525 off-street spaces for parking in the downtown area. On-street including side streets as well as Jackson and Adams Streets and off-street including the garage, metered surface lots, and surface lots with leased spaces.

The City of Fairmont wants to remind residents of the other parking areas that are available and their time limits. Metered parking on side streets is designated as two-hour parking; metered parking on Adams Street on the 200 and 300 blocks is one hour parking with a two-hour limit. This means that after two hours on Adams Street, the vehicle must be moved from the block. "The goal of the two hour limit is to turn the spaces over on Adams Street and have longer parking on the side streets, surface lots, and parking garage," said Warner. Additional parking is also available to the public in the Ogden Avenue lot, also known as the Ski Slope lot, payment being in the form of a pay box. The City is working within the budget for upgrades and improvements to the Ogden Ave. lot in late 2015- early 2016.

Parking is also available at Veterans Plaza. The City leases out these spaces on a yearly basis and currently has space available. Those wishing to lease a space can contact the City Manager's Office.

For those who unfortunately receive a parking ticket, violations can be paid online. Visit the "Online Payments" section on the City's website and from there select "Parking Citation" to be redirected to the payment page. Users will have to create a username and password. Those that choose to pay their violation via one of the red drop boxes on each block, please remember to include the ticket stub with the payment. The stub is the ultimate identifier of the recipient of the ticket and allows the payment to be processed for the correct individual.

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